

ABRIDGED REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR
THE RURAL AREA
OF
SALISBURY AND WILTON
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER
1945.

SANITARY AND HEALTH OFFICIALS.

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Abridged Report

for the Year ended December, 1945,
on Public Health Matters in the
Combined Rural District of
Salisbury and Wilton.

Composition of the Area.

The area in acres is 110,163 (approx).

Rateable value of the district—£83,456 os. od.

Penny rate yields approximately £363 18s. 3d.

Population, 15,930.

Vital Statistics to December, 1945.

Births.

The birth-rate was 19·1, which compares with 17·8 last year, and with the figure of 19·2 given by the Registrar General for smaller towns, etc. The following are the figures for the year :—

| | Total | M. | F. | } Birth Rate per 1,000 of estim- ated resident population 19·1 |
|------------------------|-------|-----|-----|---|
| Live Births—Legitimate | 258 | 135 | 123 | |
| Illegitimate | 47 | 30 | 17 | |
| Stillbirths—Legitimate | 3 | 2 | 1 | } Rate per 1,000 live & still births 9·7 |
| Illegitimate | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

Deaths.

| | Total | M. | F. | } Death Rate per 1,000 of estim- ated resident population 11·2 |
|------------|-------|----|----|---|
| Deaths ... | 179 | 94 | 85 | |

Deaths from puerperal causes—

Rate per 1,000
(live and still)

| | Deaths | Births |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|
| Puerperal Sepsis ... | 0 | 0 |
| Other Maternal Causes ... | 0 | 0 |
| Total ... | 0 | |

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

| | |
|---|----|
| Number of deaths...(8 legitimate, 4 illegitimate) ... | 12 |
| All infants per 1,000 live births ... | 39 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | 31 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | 85 |

| | |
|--|----|
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... | 29 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... | 0 |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... | 0 |
| Deaths from Diarrhœa (under two years) ... | 1 |

Particulars of Death.

The chief causes of death were :—

| | Last Year | This Year |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Heart Disease only ... | 35% | 29% |
| Cancer ... | 14% | 16% |
| Tuberculosis ... | 2% | 1·5% |

Details of Public Health Services in the District.

The Medical Officer, in addition to holding the appointment of Salisbury and Wilton Rural District, is also Medical Officer to Mere and Tisbury Rural District, and Wilton Borough. His qualifications are Bachelor of Science (Honours Degree) St. Andrews; Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery; Diploma of Public Health of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, England, Certificates of Tropical Medicine and of Tropical Hygiene, London.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector holds the following qualifications: Member of the Institute of Municipal and County Engineers, Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute, Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector, Certificate of the Manchester College of Technology, Advanced Sanitary Science and the Certificate of the Lancashire and Cheshire Union of Institutes.

The present additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. A. Furley, holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector; also the City and Guilds, London, Building Construction (Honours).

Upon his return from the Services the Assistant obtained an appointment under the Marlborough Borough Council, and owing to his wife being employed as a District Nurse under the County Council in one of the Parishes adjoining Marlborough, and the difficulty of obtaining a house in the Salisbury area, the Council placed no obstacle in the way of his accepting this appointment.

There is also a Clerk and Shorthand Typist (Female) in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Office

Water Supplies.

Quidhampton, Stratford-sub-Castle, and parts of Laverstock and Netherhampton have a bulk supply from Salisbury City. This supply is chlorinated.

The parish of Dinton is from Mr. D. Combes' private supply; West Dean from the Norman Court Estate supply

and Alderbury and parts of Odstock and Grimstead from the Earl of Radnor's supply. This supply is chlorinated.

The parish of Clarendon is from the Clarendon Estate supply, and the few outlying cottages on this Estate are now having piped supplies laid on.

Quarterly samples are taken for bacteriological analysis from the Council's five parish water supplies, one of which has recently been taken over. These are :—

Fovant—small gravitation supply.

Pitton, Farley, Whiteparish and Ebbesbourne Wake—pumping stations with reservoirs, the latter being the one recently acquired by the Council.

The reports on these samples have been consistently good as to quality, and thanks to the careful supervision given by the Public Health Staff to these Pumping Stations, there have been ample supplies from these for use of the inhabitants, also at Whiteparish for use of troops.

No waters in this district are liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

The Council's scheme for the whole of the district with the exception of three parishes in the West Hants area has been approved in principle by the Ministry of Health and Wilts County Council, and negotiations are now proceeding with a view to purchase land for sinking of trial bore holes.

| | Estimated Population. | Number of Houses. | Water Supply. |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Alderbury | 750 | 313 | Piped supply laid on to all houses. Owner of supply, Longford Estate. |
| Barford St. Martin | 500 | 192 | Wells |
| Berwick St. James | 135 | 46 | Wells. Two private houses have their own small pumping plant and reservoir, with water laid on to houses. |
| Bishopstone and Stratford Tony | 501 | 180 | Wells |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------|-----|--|
| Bowerchalke | 360 | 116 | Wells and private piped supplies. 20 houses with water laid on, 50 from stand pipes and 46 from wells. |
| Britford | 336 | 74 | 56 with water laid on and 18 supplied from wells. |
| Broadchalke | 595 | 181 | Wells. |
| Burcombe | 226 | 84 | Wells. Piped water supply from public main to two agricultural cottages. |
| Clarendon Park | 303 | 82 | 70 with water laid on, 12 without. |
| Compton Chamberlayne | 130 | 55 | Private pipe supply laid on to 50 houses, 5 from wells. |
| Coombe Bissett | 250 | 142 | Wells, and one farm and cottages with private pipe supply, 6 farm cottages from stand pipe. |
| Dinton | 432 | 194 | Water laid on from private piped supply. |
| Downton | 1716 | 482 | Wells. This parish is included in West Hants scheme. At time of writing this report mains are being laid. |
| Ebbesborne Wake | 194 | 67 | 12 houses with water laid on, 55 with wells. Approval has been given by Ministry for water mains to be extended. |
| Fovant | 409 | 150 | 24 with water laid on, 126 supplied from stand pipes. |
| Grimstead | 334 | 85 | 15 with water laid on, 70 from wells. |
| Landford | 480 | 164 | Wells. Application has been made to include this in the West Hants scheme. |

| | | | |
|----------------------|------|-----|--|
| Laverstock and Ford | 900 | 290 | 144 houses have water laid on ; remainder, wells. |
| Netherhampton | 180 | 68 | Wells. |
| Odstock | 424 | 152 | 100 with water laid on, 50 from stand pipes. |
| Pitton and Farley | 420 | 140 | Water laid on from public main. |
| Quidhampton | 418 | 110 | Water laid on from public main. |
| Redlynch | 1946 | 658 | No piped supply. This parish included in West Hants scheme. At time of writing this report mains are being laid. |
| South Newton | 446 | 114 | Wells. |
| Stapleford | 215 | 78 | Wells. |
| Steeple Langford | 474 | 141 | Wells. |
| Stratford-sub-Castle | 236 | 64 | Water laid on from public main. |
| West Dean | 186 | 48 | Water laid on from private piped supply. |
| Whiteparish | 790 | 265 | Water laid on from public main. |
| Winterslow | 875 | 307 | Water laid on by private company. |
| Wishford | 239 | 74 | Wells. |
| Wylve | 320 | 153 | Wells. |

Analyst's Report on Water Supplies.

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|----|
| Number of supplies sampled | ... | ... | 16 |
| Number of Good samples .. | ... | ... | 8 |
| Number of Bad samples | ... | ... | 8 |
| Number of Bad samples which showed a Good analysis following remedial work | ... | ... | 4 |
| Number still receiving remedial work... | ... | ... | 4 |

House Refuse and Salvage Collection.

The maintaining of this very essential service has again been difficult. The Council's contractor was released from the Forces in June and then, for some inexplicable reason, the two men who had been employed and kept in a reserved occupation were allowed to leave, one to go as a driver on the local bus service, the other as a roadman with the Wilts County Council.

However, in spite of difficulties, the service has been maintained, and a new covered refuse vehicle has been obtained by the Contractor and put into service in March, 1946.

From a perusal of the salvage figures it will be noted that in five of the headings an increase is shown, bones and rags being the only two to show a small decrease, and credit must be given to the voluntary collectors under the direction of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, as there was a definite tendency to slacken in the matter of salvage collection after VE Day.

It is also worthy of note that the refuse contractor is converting the old Gas Works at Wilton into a refuse destructor. This has the advantage of being central, with a good road leading to it, and when completed will enable the dumps which have had to be used during the war period to be closed down.

The following materials have been salvaged during the period under review :—

| | Last year | | This year | | |
|----------------|-----------|------|-----------------------|-----|----------|
| | tons. | cwts | tons | | |
| Paper .. | 75 | 0 | 123 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 66% | Increase |
| Scrap Iron ... | 28 | 0 | 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 57% | „ |
| Bottles & Jars | 575 | doz. | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 16% | „ |
| Bones | 8 | 10 | 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 49% | Decrease |
| Rags | 12 | 5 | 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 16% | „ |
| Lead ... | | 4 | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. | 50% | Increase |
| Brass .. | | 10 | 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt. | 9% | „ |

1600 books have been collected and sent to the Forces at various times during the year.

Meat and other Food Inspections.

The amounts condemned have not varied a great deal with previous years. They show a slight decrease but the number of animals slaughtered also shows a decrease. This centralized slaughtering has the disadvantage that an already overworked official has the pleasure, or otherwise, of doing the meat inspection for Salisbury City, Wilton Borough, and Mere & Tisbury, and Amesbury Rural District Councils, who get their meat from this source, but whose officials do not assist in the meat inspection.

Animals Slaughtered.

| | Number Killed. | Average per week. |
|---------|----------------|-------------------|
| Bovines | ... 3,674 | ... 71 |
| Calves | ... 12,519 | ... 241 |
| Pigs | ... 18,942 | ... 364 |
| Sheep | ... 11,305 | ... 217 |
| Total | <u>46,440</u> | <u>893</u> |

Meat Condemned.

| | Amount lbs. | Tuber- culosis | Fever & Septic | Bruising & Injury | Mori- bund | Jaundice Fevered & Abscesses | Imma- ture | Liver Flukes |
|--------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Beef | 129,782 | 72% | 17½% | 7½% | | | | 3% |
| Veal | 3,328 | 50% | 7½% | 5% | 10% | 12½% | 15% | |
| Pork | 38,456 | 75% | 6% | 4% | 15% | | | |
| Mutton | 5,167 | | 56% | 6% | 15% | 4% | | 19% |

TINNED FOOD—

The following amounts of tinned food were condemned at various Buffer Dumps :—

| | | |
|-----------------|-----|---------|
| Meat (various) | ... | 204 lbs |
| Split Peas | ... | 7 lbs |
| Skimmed Milk | ... | 3 pts |
| Full Cream Milk | ... | 10 pts |
| Fruit, Dried | ... | 78 lbs |

The following were condemned from the N.A.A.F.I. Depot, Old Sarum :—

| | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|--------|
| Macaroni ... | ... | ... | 20 lbs |
| Oats ... | ... | ... | 30 lbs |
| Custard Powder | ... | ... | 2 lbs |

Cowsheds and Dairies.

There are 39 T.T. Herds, an increase of 2 over 1944.

The number of Accredited Herds is the same as the previous year—57, and there is not the slightest doubt that much more progress will be made when the piped water supply for the whole of the district becomes an actuality.

Number on registers :—

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Cow-keepers | ... | ... | 296 |
| Cow-keepers and purveyors | ... | ... | 69 |
| Milk purveyors only | ... | ... | 10 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| Total | ... | ... | 375 |

Housing.

Two new cottages erected by a private owner for use of agricultural workers have been completed during the year, and four cottages reconstructed under the Rural Workers' Act.

Rural Housing Survey.

The following extract is taken from a report of the Sanitary Inspector to the Housing Committee dated 21st March, 1945 :—

“ 25 houses have been reconstructed, taking them from Categories 3 and 4, and reclassifying them in Category 1. In addition, licences have been issued and work is in hand on a further six, and schemes are in course of preparation for a further 12, making a total of 43 which are already reconstructed or in course of reconstruction by the owners without any grant.

Reconstruction with grants under the Rural Workers' Act is as follows :—

| | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|
| Completed | ... | 4 |
| In hand | ... | 6 ” |

The difficulty of obtaining sites which the Regional Commissioner can approve now shows signs of being overcome, and we hope to see the commencement of the Council's first year programme during the coming summer months.

Temporary Permits due to blitz and other conditions.

There are 30 temporary permits in use, plus 7 cottages licensed under the Housing Act, showing a decrease of 4 temporary permits and 1 cottage under licence. The 4 temporary permits are people having left the district, and these buildings or caravans are now no longer in use. The condition of the cottage had deteriorated to such an extent that it was no longer fit for habitation and has now been demolished.

Complaints.

During the past year the number of complaints was as numerous as ever. These were investigated and where necessary remedial works were carried out, verbal notices being sufficient.

Infectious Diseases.

The Salisbury Isolation Hospital is the centre for this District. During this year there have been the usual sporadic cases, but no epidemic; this has been the case for the last fifteen years.

| Disease | | Number of cases | Admitted to Isolation Hospital. | Deaths. |
|----------------------------|-----|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| Scarlet Fever | ... | 39 | 31 | 0 |
| Diphtheria ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Erysipelas ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Puerperal Fever | ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Acute Pneumonia | ... | 10 | 1 | 0 |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Measles ... | ... | 72 | 0 | 0 |
| Whooping Cough | ... | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Anterior Poliomyelitis ... | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Encephalitis | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Vincent's Angina | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gastro Enteritis | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pneumococcal Meningitis | ... | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Tuberculosis.

| Age Period | New Cases | | | |
|--------------|-----------|----|---------------|---|
| | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
| | M | F | M | F |
| 0 | ... | | | |
| 1 | | | | |
| 5 | ... | | | |
| 10 | .. | | | |
| 15 | ... | | | |
| 20 | ... | 2 | 3 | |
| 25 | .. | 3 | | |
| 35 | ... | 2 | | |
| 45 | ... | 1 | | |
| 55 | .. | 2 | | |
| 65 & upwards | | | | |
| Totals | ... | 10 | 3 | 0 |

During the year there was one female death from non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Infestation.

No steps were found necessary under this heading during the past year.

General.

During the past year the duties which we had hoped might have become lighter due to the cessation of hostilities have not done so, and I must again pay tribute to the Council's Public Health Staff, who, in spite of shortened holidays, have carried on the many additional duties with that cheerful optimism which they have displayed during the weary war years, and I am indeed grateful for their loyalty during the past year, and their ready response to any extra call which it has been necessary to give.

